National Congress Bulletin

RCH 1960 • PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 27, NO. 7

Dear P.T.A. President:

IT WOULD BE almost impossible to write a letter to you is month without referring to an event about which I wrote ou earlier—the workshops carried on in the islands of awaii. Someday I hope you will take a few moments to cate on your map and take to your heart both Hawaii and laska—those faraway places so closely related to us as embers of our P.T.A. family. (Alaska, which most of us ink of as north, is also west, for Anchorage and Fairbanks e in the same time zone as Honolulu.)

It has been a revealing and thought-provoking experience have visited these two new states in the first year of their tehood. We who live in states that go back many decades, erhaps many generations, can only guess what it means to e people of Alaska and Hawaii to be truly full-fledged .S. citizens. I may be wrong, but it seems to me that these en and women are more intensely aware than we are of e privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. Most of us ve to consult a history book to find out when our state ecame part of the Union!

In Hawaii, as in Alaska, this vigorous enthusiasm also ows itself in a widespread interest in parent-teacher work. It is a revitalizing experience to have person-to-person contacts with district, council, and local leaders who are so far from the mainland in miles but so close to us in knowledge of the parent-teacher movement, its purposes and intents. This very fact is proof of the universal desire of all adults to give children the tender care and guidance that will help them to become as fine and able as it is possible for them to be.

» There is a pronounced and eager belief in education, a dedication to the concept that this is the right of every child, whether he lives in an isolated section of the far, far north, born of Eskimo or Indian parents, or in a verdant, sun-loved rural village in one of the outer islands, born of Hawaiian-Oriental parents.

» The members of your National Congress Executive Committee who participated in the workshops in our fiftieth state must have come away more strongly convinced than before that the P.T.A. not only is a means by which boys and girls can be served but is an instrument for peace and understanding.

» I am sure you can guess how many more Hawaiian experiences I would like to tell you about—the sweet affection of the families, the skill of young kite flyers, the joyous play of children on a schoolground, the teachers who added gay

(Continued on next page.)

» Wherever officers of the National Congress may go, the "National Parent-Teacher" is sure to be there too. And the P.T.A. magazine was indeed very much in evidence at the workshops conducted by the Hawaii Congress after the Executive Committee's meeting in the islands last January. Here we see our national president and other officers of the National Congress discussing a recent issue of our official magazine, perhaps in preparation for one of the workshop sessions. From left to right, Mrs. A. Kenneth Spencer, secretary; J. C. Moffitt, second vice-president; Mrs. James C. Parker, president; and Galen Saylor, treasurer.

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and rhythmic music to our dinner meetings. You and I know, however, that I must go on to speak of nearer and present responsibilities.

» Since this is the high point in the Congressional season, it is my considered belief that persistent, serious demands for school legislation will bring results now. As I write, the chances for a broad program of federal support of education look very good—if we conscientiously make our opinions known to our senators and representatives. Your state legislation chairman will be informed about developments, and you will also be kept directly posted through the pages of this "Bulletin," if time permits. We would feel that much had been achieved if we could be sure that the school construction so seriously needed could move forward with such impetus that by next year no child or youth would be forced into double sessions. We would wish to make certain, too, that more quality teachers will be available, by raising salaries to a point at which the competition with other professional opportunities is not so overwhelming. This legislation may offer us a present and long-sought chance to secure one or both.

» I am thinking of you as your committee prepares a slate of candidates for next year. May each one be chosen thoughtfully, with earnest consideration of the contribution he or she has to make toward strengthening the home, supporting good education, and providing needed community resources for children and youth.

» And by the way, how are your subscriptions to the P.T.A. magazine coming along? There's yet time for each association to secure at least one more. And that's a distinct contribution to the welfare of children and youth!

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. James C. Parker

MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

TWO DEADLINES

March 31—Deadline for count of *National Parent-Teacher* subscriptions that can be reported at the national convention.

April 15—Deadline for membership dues to be received at the National Office (see page 4).

National LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

• November 9, 1959–February 18, 1960 •

Show this list to friends whose names appear here. What other citizens in your community deserve to share this spotlight?

AGAIN it is our pleasure to welcome into Honorary National Life Membership those persons who have recently received this high honor. We are happy that their contribution to the welfare of children and youth has been recognized in this meaningful way.

As you know, an Honorary National Life Membership serves a double role: It confers the highest parent-teacher honor on a person who is in some way helping us with our all-important work; and, by increasing The Endowment Fund of the National Congress, it helps to extend and enrich parent-teacher services to children and youth.

Do you know of any other person in your community who should be given this high honor now—someone who has made a significant contribution to children's welfare? You will find details on how to obtain the Membership on page 252 of the *Parent-Teacher Manual.*

A reminder to state boards: Will your state president go to the national convention as a National Life Member? How better could a new state president's term of office be started than with the gift of a National Life Membership? And if the outgoing president has not already received this honor, in what better way could he or she be thanked for efforts well expended? Surely no one deserves this token of appreciation more than these hard-working leaders.

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD
A Director of The Endowment Fund
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

• • •

Alaska: Mrs. Elizabeth Hakkinen, Haines; Mrs. Gladys Wood, Anchorage

California: Mrs. Harold E. Cook, Stockton; Mrs. E. S. Dyke, San Jose; Mrs. Gail D. Edwards, San Diego; Ruth Gibson, Fresno; Mrs. Kenneth Goodban, Bellflower; Mrs. Robert J. Graham, Santa Ana; Glenn H. Hiemforth, Bakersfield; Laurence B. Martin, Los Angeles; Mrs. James E. Nelson, Compton; Mrs. Ray Reese, Pico Rivera; Mrs. Walter R. Sellars, San Diego; John T. Warburton,* La Mesa; J. Ted Chism, Bakersfield; Marie E. O'Hagen, Santa Barbara; Mrs. Alice Reed, Hawthorne

District of Columbia: Lorraine G. Knupp

Florida: Mrs. Grover Angell, Miami; Mrs. H. Fred Eubank, Palmetto

• The National Life Membership pin (magnified here) is made of rolled gold and blue enamel.

Illinois: Mrs. William Mather, Chicago; Karl A. Montag, Bellwood

Iowa: Mrs. H. L. Taylor, Des Moines

Kentucky: Mrs. Ruth Porter, Louisville

Michigan: Frances Lewis, Royal Oak

New Jersey: Mrs. Kenneth W. Lathrope, Neshanic Station

New York: Fred Ambellan, Levittown; Ruth C. Kinney, Islip; Mrs. Lucy J. Tarbox,* Yonkers

Pennsylvania: Harry B. Miller, Clairton

Tennessee: Thelma Gilliam, Whites Creek

Texas: O. R. Douglas, Brownfield; A. R. Downing, Waco; Mrs. Staten Hatchell, Midland; Mrs. C. R. Owens, Texas City; Gladnie O. Parker, Galveston; Mrs. Henry Seale, Del Rio; Mrs. E. C. Thompson, Waco; A. R. Winder, Texas City; Quata Woods, Dallas; Elton F. Tielke, Rosenberg; Mrs. Carrie Lacey, San Antonio; H. Steele Campbell, Galveston

Wisconsin: Harry P. Cooper, Cable

*Through misunderstanding about dates of presentation, these names were omitted from former lists. The National Headquarters business office again urges you to include the date of presentation as well as the home address of the recipient with all requests for National Life Memberships.

IN STORE FOR YOU . . . AT PHILADELPHIA

KEYNOTE for the sixty-fourth annual convention of the National Congress, to be held in Philadelphia May 22–25, will be "Family Assignments for the Sixties." From this focal point speakers and participants in symposiums, section meetings, and conferences will seek to open wider channels for "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness."

Again the convention will begin with the traditional and inspiring vesper service. The date this year is Sunday, May 22; the place, First Baptist Church; and the speaker, Daniel A. Poling, editor of the *Christian Herald*. Other high lights of your Sunday at the convention will be the traditional ones — State Presidents' Club luncheon, dinner for National Life Members, a Sunday evening sing, opportunities for previewing exhibits.

To get the general sessions off to a good start, the National Congress president, Mrs. James C. Parker, will give her keynote address on Monday morning. Representatives of various national organizations with whom we cooperate will bring greetings. Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins, first vice-president and chairman of The National Parent-Teacher, will present the P.T.A. magazine awards. And Eli Ginzberg, chairman of the Committee on the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth and director of staff studies for the National Manpower Council, will report on findings of the Conference and their relevance to P.T.A. purposes and programs.

© *Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau*

• Your children too will love learning history this easy way. These youngsters take a last look at Washington's headquarters in Valley Forge, twenty miles from Philadelphia.

Two symposiums slated for other general sessions will add fresh insight and knowledge to your understanding of major educational and family life needs that require our immediate attention today. Among the well-known psychologists and educators taking part in these meetings are William C. Kvaraceus, professor in the School of Education, Boston University; Benjamin C. Willis, superintendent of one of the largest public school systems in the world—Chicago; and Bonaro W. Overstreet, author and adult educator.

Another symposium, scheduled for Wednesday morning, May 25, will feature these prominent Americans discussing three pressing problems: Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, pornography; Robert K. Gray, secretary to the Cabinet, the threat of inflation; and Shane MacCarthy, executive director of the President's Council on Youth Fitness, building the physical fitness of the nation's young people.

Also to be seen and heard at the general sessions are such noted speakers as Charles W. Ferguson, author of *Naked to Mine Enemies* and *Say It with Words*, and Ruth S. Cavan, professor of sociology at Rockford College and author of *The American Family* and other books in her chosen field.

In addition to these general sessions, there will be conferences at which you'll have ample opportunities to discuss such all-important areas of parent-teacher work as councils, membership, publicity, parliamentary procedure, and legislation. You'll also have a chance to meet with the national chairmen and to have their thinking brought to bear on the committee work of your P.T.A.

All this and more awaits you at the convention. This year, as in previous years, you're bound to find the kind of enrichment that can't be written into a convention program. Take, for example, the unparalleled opportunity to exchange ideas with other parent-teacher leaders. There is simply no substitute for the person-to-person encounters that a national P.T.A. convention makes possible. Out of them comes not only the mental stimulation all of us seek but a heightened appreciation of what it means to belong to the large but devoted P.T.A. family.

Look for more convention details in next month's *Bulletin*. In the meantime, make your plans *now* to be in Philadelphia May 22–25 for a national convention that cannot fail to reach new and exhilarating heights.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

May 22, 23, 24, and 25, 1960

THE Bellevue Stratford Hotel will be the official headquarters, and convention sessions will be held in the American Academy of Music.

Paying for all or part of a delegate's expenses to this important parent-teacher assembly is a legitimate use of parent-teacher funds —state, district, council, and local.

Plan to come to Philadelphia, and *make your reservations early.*

1960 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS to be acted upon by the 1960 national convention are now being accepted by the resolutions committee. Units and branches may send suggested resolutions to Resolutions Committee, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. To be considered, resolutions must be received not later than April 22, 1960.

The following members of the Executive Committee have been appointed by the president to serve on the resolutions committee: Mrs. W. L. Mussett, chairman, and Leon G. Green, Frederick A. Halla, Mrs. Philip A. Hyatt, Mamie J. Jones, Mrs. Daniel W. Richardson, and Mrs. Milton L. Wiener.

In accordance with *Policies and Practices*, each resolution submitted by National Congress units and branches will be acknowledged by the resolutions committee, and the committee will submit all resolutions to the Executive Committee with its recommendations.

NCPTA

OUR GOAL: MORE THAN 12,000,000 MEMBERSHIPS

Let's "Call on All"

Will we reach it—this goal of ours?

Prospects are bright, says Mrs. Milton L. Wiener, national Membership chairman, in a report on National Congress membership figures available at the National Office January 15, 1960.

32 state congresses topped their January 15, 1959, records
5 states doubled, tripled, or quadrupled January 1959 figures
2 states surpassed their last April's enrollments

And perhaps even more states could have qualified for these top brackets if their national portions of membership dues had been received at the National Office by January 15!

Mrs. Wiener sends her congratulations to all membership chairmen and their committees who have strived to increase their P.T.A. memberships. BUT, she adds, reaching our goal will take many more enrollments.

For enrolling more members she suggests:

Study your P.T.A. membership enrollment; is it *higher* than it was last March?

Teamwork and personal calls brought about those fine records above. Are your membership teams still in action—still "calling on all"?

Review the membership information in the June–July 1959 *Bulletin*. (Reprints still available free from your state congress.)

Membership leaflets can help you. (See the same *Bulletin* or reprint.)

Remember that the 1959–60 national membership count is based on dues received at the National Office on or before April 15, 1960. All dues should be forwarded to the state office early enough for the state treasurer to get national portions in by this date.

Membership enrollment is a year-round job. P.T.A. membership costs little and it pays big dividends.

P.T.A.'S AND THE NONPARTISAN POLICY

IN OUR swiftly changing world even constant policies that long ago proved their worth must be reexamined periodically and, if necessary, clarified in the light of present needs. Since no concern is more important, especially to P.T.A. members, than the wise fulfullment of our responsibilities as citizens, it was only natural that the nonpartisan policy of the National Congress should have been discussed by the entire Board of Managers at the fall meeting. Out of its careful deliberations has come the following interpretation, which will be included in the forthcoming edition of the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, to be issued this spring.

Nonpartisan Policy and Partisan Activity

- There is no contradiction between the nonpartisan policy of the National Congress and the privileges and responsibilities of its members as citizens in a democracy.

- A voluntary organization is strong when the individual member accepts sincerely and enthusiastically the opportunities of membership. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers encourages each member as an individual to accept his privileges as a citizen and to discharge the accompanying responsibilities. Citizenship offers individual choice.

- P.T.A.'s participate in a variety of citizenship activities. (See the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, pages 133–34.) A parent-teacher association, however, should not endorse candidates for public office.

- A member of a parent-teacher association seeking public office should not solicit the endorsement of the P.T.A. nor exploit his parent-teacher membership to promote his candidacy.

- Officers and chairmen of the National Congress, its state branches, districts, and councils, and *presidents* of parent-teacher associations can serve the organization best by postponing partisan activity until their terms of office have been concluded.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN
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FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ready for Action!

1. When Congress Reconvened in 1960

Federal support for education was one of the first matters considered. Just before midnight, February 4, the Senate passed by a vote of 51–34 an amendment that would broaden the provisions of S. 8 to include funds for teachers' salaries and to specify a more liberal distribution formula. About $917,000,000 a year for two years would be allowed in grants to the states—the first year without matching funds and the second year on a matching formula requiring less from poor states than from more wealthy ones.

It is reported that friends of school support in the House are trying to draft another bill, which they believe will have a better chance of enactment, to replace H.R. 22 (now blocked in the Rules Committee). Although this may include funds for school construction only, it might be amended on the floor to carry more generous provisions. In any case, the success of a good school support bill in the House will depend on all-out support from organizations and individual citizens all across the country.

2. Continuing Crisis Facing Elementary and Secondary Public Schools

- 195,000 *teachers short* in fall of 1959, and
- 140,000 *classrooms short* in fall of 1958, according to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.
- At 1957–58 rate of construction, with present sources of revenue, it will take *3 or 4 generations* to catch up the backlog of 140,000 classrooms!
- 300,000 *teachers* left the classrooms during World War II; recruitment of replacements has never caught up.
- Compare teachers' salaries with earnings of others:

doctors (1957)	$12,000–$16,000
lawyers (1954)	$10,220
engineers (1958)	$ 8,750
manufacturing employees (1958)	$ 4,911
teachers (1958)	**$ 4,792**

- From 1940–57 federal nondefense budget expenditures have *doubled.* State and local expenditures have gone up *3½ times!* Largest single dollar increase in state and local spending: public schools.
- *State debt* up 182 per cent since 1948; *national debt* up less than 10 per cent.
- Total local, state, and national *expenditures for schools and other public works* fell behind during World War II and have never caught up.

3. Why Federal Financial Support?

Federal tax collecting machinery is the most equitable and economical method of tax collection.

Cost of tax collection:

Federal:	44 cents per $100.00
State (average):	$1.00 per $100.00
Examples:	Delaware, 95 cents
	Colorado, $2.34
Local:	$5.00 to $10.00 per $100.00

Federal financial support of education is an American tradition:

★ GEORGE WASHINGTON in his first annual message to Congress said "There is nothing which can better deserve your patronage than the promotion of science and literature."

★ ALEXANDER HAMILTON said that whatever concerned the general interests of learning was within the federal jurisdiction "as far as regards an application of money."

★ THOMAS JEFFERSON urged the appropriation of public lands for the support of education.

★ The Ordinance of 1787, in order that " . . . THE MEANS OF EDUCATION SHALL FOREVER BE ENCOURAGED," provided for grants of federal lands to the states, income from which is *still* supporting education in *every state* in the Union.

★ During the last eight years the federal government has contributed over $1 billion to "federally-impacted" school districts for buildings and operating expenses (including teachers' salaries) in 3,300 school districts *with no federal control!* The cost of administration of this program has been *less* than .08 per cent.

Education is not solely a local and state responsibility. Thirty-two million Americans changed community residence in 1957. Over five million changed state residence. *A child poorly educated in one state is a social or economic liability to every state and the nation.*

• • •

ACTION IS NEEDED NOW! WRITE NOW to your congressmen—and to the chairman of the Rules Committee, Congressman Howard W. Smith (Virginia)—to pass federal support for public schools!

Adapted from material provided by the Clearing House on Public School Legislation.

FIELD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETS

● Expansion of the National Congress program of leadership training was planned by the national field service committee at a recent two-day conference, in which the need for leaders of high school P.T.A.'s was given special emphasis. This program, as you know, provides the assistance requested by state congresses as they work to develop more effective leadership at every level of the parent-teacher organization.

National Congress leaders participating in the field service planning session are (from left) Mrs. Harold A. Belcher, vice-president from Region V; Mrs. A. L. Hendrick, vice-president from Region VI; Mrs. Clifford N. Jenkins, first vice-president; Mrs. James C. Parker, president and chairman of the field service committee; Hervon L. Snider, Idaho Congress president; and Mrs. Henry Carr, Missouri Congress president.

The P.T.A. and Girl Scouting

● "Over the years P.T.A. units have shown their interest in extending Girl Scouting to more girls—and have asked only that we give concrete suggestions for helping." So reads a beginning paragraph in *P.T.A. + Scouts*, which goes on to explain that this new pamphlet "is an answer to that request."

P.T.A. + Scouts is full of timely and concise suggestions for P.T.A.–Girl Scout leadership activities—a ready and valuable addition to your P.T.A. bookshelves. You can order it from the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (830 Third Avenue, New York 22, New York) for 4 cents a copy; $2.75, 100 copies; or $12.50, 500 copies.

"OPEN Wonderful New Worlds . . . Wake Up and READ!"

● Great plans are afoot for celebrating this year's National Library Week, April 3–9.

The purpose of the event, says William I. Nichols, chairman of the 1960 N.L.W. steering committee, "is to encourage lifetime reading habits and the use and support of libraries of all kinds by everyone. The goal is a 'better-read, better-informed America.'"

Do these goals have a familiar ring? For some striking parent-teacher parallels, look, for example, in these Congress publications: *Parent-Teacher Manual*, page 212; *Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness*, pages 10, 17, 18, 25; the *National Parent-Teacher*, many issues.

Careful plans for National Library Week have been in the making by its sponsors, the National Book Committee and the American Library Association. This year they invite P.T.A.'s and other local groups to "Open Wonderful New Worlds" by putting special emphasis on young adults' reading. For this and other meaningful parent-teacher programs are a number of promotion aids, all geared to N.L.W. and described in a brochure available from National Library Week, 24 West Fortieth Street, New York 18, New York.

Even more helpful, perhaps, is an N.L.W. organization handbook that has been placed in thousands of public libraries. If your library hasn't received a copy of this 35-cent booklet, perhaps it (or your P.T.A.) could order one from National Library Week. For the meantime, though, here's a quick glance at some of its topics: organizing local committees; setting up goals; committee activities; sample programs; publicity aids. It's full of good ideas to help you make National Library Week "a focal point of long-range, year-around effort."

MUST WE HAVE THESE SENIOR PROM "NIGHTMARES"?

Coming up now in a few months is the crowning social event in our high schools, the Senior Prom. Across the country, parents and teachers are increasingly concerned about it. Last May, for example, in one of our midwestern towns the lives of seven seniors were wiped out in a wild joy ride on Prom Night. The parents and authorities in this town were unable to locate several other couples until the dawn hours. At the same time, parents in other cities were spending from $7,000 up to charter special trains for these all-night frolics in order to prevent just such tragedies. No doubt about it, the Senior Prom problem is getting out of hand!

What are the answers? Must we have these prom "nightmares"? With your help, the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine would like to gather opinion on this problem for the benefit of high schools everywhere. Will you be so good, therefore, as to answer the following questions, and then write us promptly?

1. **Is Senior Prom Night a problem in your community? If so, what are some of the difficulties? Please cite specific incidents. Any tragedies such as the case noted above?**
2. **What are your P.T.A. and the other groups in your community doing about Prom Night? Are you finding ways to hold a safe and sensible prom that communities elsewhere might adopt?**

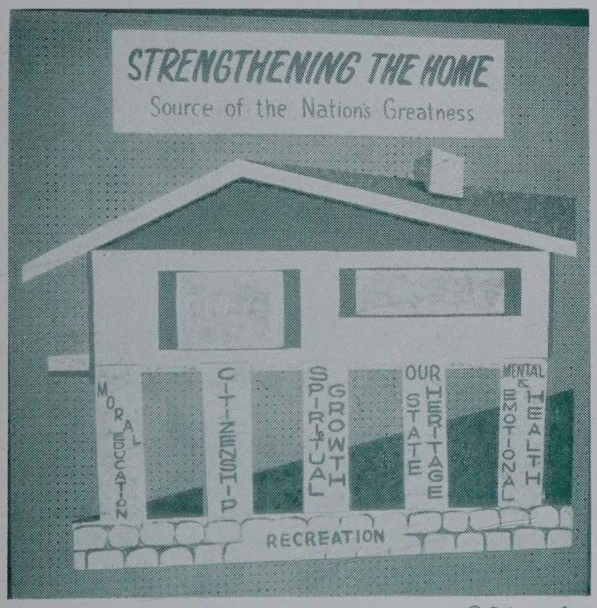
We shall be most grateful for your early assistance. Please address the Editor, *National Parent-Teacher*, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

P.T.A. BULLETIN BOARD

BRIEF ITEMS OF CURRENT INTEREST

FOR AND ABOUT P.T.A.'S

- **A LARGE "THEME BOARD"** used by the Joseph Clisby Grammar School P.T.A. (Macon, Georgia) depicts each month's program topic and shows how it fits into the year's theme. The board, of pegboard braced with legs, is prominent at each P.T.A. meeting. The unit finds that this device helps in presenting programs as well as in keeping the over-all program theme always in the foreground. (See illustration.)



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• The 1959-60 theme board of the Joseph Clisby Grammar School P.T.A. By the year's end each pillar of the house will hold a monthly program topic. Together they will show how foundations are laid for "strengthening the home."

- **TUESDAY IS THE "P.T.A.'S DAY"** in Texas City, Texas. The two junior highs hold their meetings on the first Tuesday in the month; the five elementary schools, the second Tuesday; the council on the third; and the high school P.T.A. on the fourth. With this established schedule, church groups and civic organizations can avoid conflicting dates for their meetings. As a result, reports Mrs. Duane Barger, Texas City Council president, attendance at P.T.A. meetings has almost doubled.

- **P.T.A.'S IN HAWAII** are being urged to plant trees on school campuses to commemorate the first year of Hawaii's statehood. It is suggested that if the trees are marked with small plaques they will be more meaningful to the children of tomorrow.

- **IN RECOGNITION OF "OUTSTANDING SERVICE** and friendship to the children of the Morse School for more than twelve years," Patrolman Edward F. McMahon was awarded a state life membership by the Morse School P.T.A. (Cambridge, Massachusetts). Officer McMahon, who is reputed to know by name every boy and girl in the area, has been frequently commended by school and P.T.A. officials for his kindly discipline and deep interest in his young charges.

- **A BOND ISSUE FOR A NEW SCHOOL** was passed by a record vote of 1,260 to 54, thanks to efforts of the Clark School P.T.A. (Metropolis, Illinois) and other community organizations. The P.T.A. helped by holding a Saturday open house, conducting tours of the old school building, and furnishing speakers for other community clubs and organizations. The local newspaper devoted an entire front page to the school situation—pictures, articles pointing up the need for a new school, and a statement in which the P.T.A. and other organizations jointly gave reasons for supporting the bond issue.

- **AN AWARD,** to be presented annually to an "unsung hero or heroine" of the unit, has been established by the Ivanhoe P.T.A. (Los Angeles, California). Each year "Patsy," a foot-high sculptured figure, is to be awarded on the basis of loyalty, dependability, capability, and service. The honor cannot go to a former or present unit president nor to any member who has received an honorary life membership.

• Home and school libraries are emphasized in a Michigan Congress convention exhibit.

© *Les Cooper*

• Membership enrollment publicity in Tennessee takes a nautical turn. With this picture on the cover of the October state congress bulletin was the caption "Have You Booked Passage? Join the P.T.A." The attractive packet sent to local membership chairmen by Mrs. H. P. Loenneke, state membership chairman, titled "Annual Membership Cruise," pictured a "P.T.A. sailor" with a membership card (actual reproduction) on his fishline. Inside in bold letters was this advice: "Land 'em and count 'em."

• **UNITS IN PENNSYLVANIA** are cooperating in the campaign against the distribution of pornographic materials through the mails, reports Edmund L. Thomas, chairman of the state congress' action committee on comics, movies, radio, and TV. The committee is assembling reports of successful community programs and practices, so that they can be shared by other P.T.A.'s.

• **NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY** provided the Horace Mann P.T.A. (Detroit, Michigan) with an occasion for giving special recognition to teachers. A personal note of appreciation to each teacher was written in red ink on onionskin, tied in scroll fashion with red ribbon, and delivered on National Teachers Day by P.T.A. members. A touch of glamor was added with an attached red rose or, in the case of the men teachers, a white carnation boutonniere. The gesture of appreciation so pleased the teachers that they expressed their mutual thanks with a poem written by one of the teachers and signed by all.

• **STUDENTS** have proved worthy and interested participants in the activities of the Northwest Classen High School P.T.S.A. (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), reported the former president, Mrs. E. D. Norton. Each year the student council helps with the P.T.S.A. membership enrollment. With student aid, the unit achieved a membership of 2,553 last year, the largest in the state.

• **"ADVENTURE IN LIFE,"** a series of sixteen TV programs on the healthy family, was presented over station KSWS-TV, Roswell, New Mexico, on "Helen McMillan's Powderpuff Scrapbook." Mrs. McMillan is radio and TV chairman of the New Mexico Congress. Her series was based on the premise that the "family is life's greatest adventure."

• **FOR THE MANY SPANISH-SPEAKING PARENTS** whose children are enrolled in the Vieau School (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), the P.T.A. holds special programs in conjunction with its regular meetings. The school's Spanish teacher presents the program in the parents' native tongue, after which the whole group gets together for the social hour. This thoughtful project may be the reason why the Vieau P.T.A. membership increased 320 per cent last year.

• **DISCUSSIONS** based on "How Good Is Ability Grouping?" an article in the September 1959 *National Parent-Teacher*, were held at P.T.A. meetings throughout Davenport, Iowa, in October. In most cases the principal was present to answer parents' questions.

• **A "HANDICAPPED CHILDREN P.T.A."** was formed recently at the Cerebral Palsy School and Treatment Center in Portland, Maine—a center that serves the area's cerebral palsied and other physically handicapped children unable to attend regular school sessions. The new unit plans to offer counsel and guidance services to "new" parents of handicapped children and to enlighten the general public on the potentialities of the handicapped.

• **WHAT CAN WE DO** to make home study more effective? With many parents asking this question, the Lake Como P.T.A. (Orlando, Florida) decided to get the right answers. So it sponsored a workshop where parents could learn from the teachers how to help their youngsters with home study. Two hour-long, four-week courses were held, one on basic skills and the other for parents of academically talented children. Instead of the expected turnout of about 20 parents, 86 appeared for the first class.

√ CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Deadline for count of National Parent-Teacher Magazine Subscriptions that can be reported at the national convention, March 31.

Teaching Career Month, April 1–30. Sponsored by the National Education Association.

National Library Week, April 3–9.

National Boys' Club Week, April 4–10.

World Health Day, April 7.

Pan American Day, April 14.

1960 National Congress Convention, May 22–25, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.